

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/380,781

Examiner

Andrew Schechter

Applicant(s)

YOSHINO ET AL.

Art Unit

2871

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the filing of 21 October 2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 5-19 and 24-29.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
 - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) ☒ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed 09 October 2001, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the margin according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____ |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No. _____ | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 5-19 and 24-29 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 5 has been amended to recite the separation slits surrounding the image area; this distinguishes the claimed invention from the prior art, in particular *Shimada*. In *Shimada*, the light cutting film surrounds the image area, but each of the numerous separation slits is oriented radially to the image area, so the separation slits do not surround the image area as in the claimed invention, as shown in Fig. 11, for instance. Claims 5 and 6 are therefore allowed, as is claim 29 which is distinguished from the prior art for the same reason.

Claim 7 adds to the previous claim 5 the limitation that "the light cutting film being superposed by the first and second transparent imaging electrodes and with the sealing member in the peripheral area". Since *Shimada* discloses an active-matrix LCD, the transparent electrodes for image (also called "imaging electrodes" - the examiner understands these to be the transparent electrodes which cross to form the pixels in a passive matrix device, and to be the pixel electrodes in an active matrix device) do not overlap the sealing material, so it does not meet this additional limitation. *Sato*, on the other hand, does not disclose the light-cutting film recited in claims 5 and 7. Since the prior art of record does not teach this combination of features, claims 7-9 are allowed.

Claim 10 adds to the previous claim 5 the limitation that "the light-cutting film has a separation slit for dividing the light-cutting film into a plurality of portions at a slightly inward position from the sealing member"; this "slightly inward position" of the slit is not disclosed by *Shimada* or the other prior art of record, so claims 10, 11, 24, and 25 are allowed.

Claims 14 and 16 contain the limitations of claims 7 and 10 respectively, so claims 14-17 are allowed.

Claim 12 adds to claim 23 (rejected above over *Sato*) the limitation of a conductive light-cutting film having slits and superposed with the sealing member. *Sato* does not disclose this feature. *Shimada* does disclose this feature, but on further consideration the examiner does not believe it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine these features: *Shimada's* light-cutting film is taught to have slits which the electrodes it covers are themselves opaque [compare Figs. 11 and 12 of *Shimada*], whereas the electrodes in *Sato* are transparent ITO. Claims 12, 13, 18, and 19 are therefore allowed.

Claim 26 recites a dummy electrode formed opposite to one of said driving electrodes with the dummy electrode comprising electrically insulated island portions, at least two of which are provided oppositely to said one of said driving electrodes. This distinguishes the claimed invention from that of *Sato*, where only one dummy electrode portion is over each driving electrode, and *Shimada*, where the dummy electrode portions are provided between [see Figs. 12 and 14] rather than oppositely to the driving electrodes. Claims 26-28 are therefore allowed.


Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

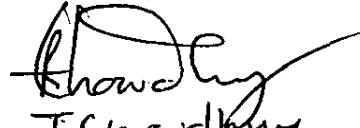
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew Schechter whose telephone number is (703) 306-5801. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 9:00 - 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert H. Kim can be reached on (703) 305-3492. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 746-4711.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.


Andrew Schechter
8 December 2003


T. Chowdhury
Primary Examiner